(a) whether it is a fact that the cellular telecome operators in the country owe huge amount to the Department of Telecommunications on account of licence fees;

(b) if so, what is the exact amount; and

(c) what step Government have taken to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The licence fee outstanding from Cellular operators including interest, is Rs. 2892.42 Crs. as on 31.1.99.

(c) Letters have been issued to the Cellular Operators on 25.1.99 asking them to clear the outstanding dues together with interest there on, immediately. In case of their inability to clear the entire amount in lumpsum immediately, they have been asked to make payment of atleast 20% or more of the total amount due by 15.2.99. The operators have further been called upon to enhance the financial bank guarantees to cover the balance amount payable after deducting the amount paid.

"मल्टी एक्सेस रूरल रेडियो" में सुधार

39. **श्रीमती सरोज दुबे:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में "मल्टी एक्सेस रेडियो" (एम॰ए॰आर॰ आर॰) टेलीफ्रोन नहीं के बराबर सेवा प्रदान कर रहे हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं और इसमें कब तक सुधार हो जाएगा; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

संचार मंत्रलय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) सरकार की नीति, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में एक राजस्व ग्राम में एक ग्रामीण सार्वजनिक टेलीफ्रोन प्रदान करने की है। अभी तक 6,07,491 ग्रामों में से 3,17,684 ग्रामों में दूरसंचार सुविधा प्रदान कर दी गई है। 1,81,765 ग्रामों में एम ए आर आर प्रणाली का प्रयोग किया गया है।

(ख) और (ग) 1999-2000 के उत्तरार्ध से, शेष ग्रामों में दूरसंचार सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए नई प्रौद्योगिकियों का प्रयोग किया जाएगा। संशोधित लक्ष्यों के अनुसार, नौवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना (2002) के अंत तक देश के सभी राजस्व ग्रामों में दूरसंचार सुविधा प्रदान की जानी है।

Bifurcation of North-East telecom circle at Shillong

40. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to bifurcate the existing North-East Telecom Circle at Shillong;

(b) whether Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram can be separated as a Telecom Circle whose Headquarter is at Imphal; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transfer of Telephone Connections

41. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the time frame devised for transfer of telephone connection from one exchange to the other and within the same exchange in Delhi separately;

(b) what are the details of applications for shifting of telephone connection pending under Tis Hazari, Gole Market and Janpath Exchanges;

(c) what is the total number of applications out of the above from Timarpur and since when they are pending;

(d) what are the reasons for their pendency; and

(e) by when these connections would be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) As per prescribed norms, the time frame for shift of